

## Contact Us

- **General Information & Other Ministry Contacts:** info@hilltran.org / (636) 789-2805
- **Senior/Teaching Pastor:** Harold Long / pastor@hilltran.org / (314) 422-2395
- **Student Ministries:** Harold Long / pastor@hilltran.org / (314) 422-2395
- **Children's Ministry Coordinator:** Kristie Monroe / (636) 357-3299 / kristiandawson@yahoo.com.
- **Worship Leader:** Krystal VanHouten / (314) 304-7189 / krstalh@yahoo.com
- **Congregational Care Team Leader:** Judi Politte-Downs (314) 497-6933 / judipd@ymail.com
- **Liturgist:** Tina Thebeau

## Hillsboro UMC

4810 State Road B, Hillsboro, MO 63050

Office hours: Mon, Tues, and Thurs: 9-1:00 PM or by appointment  
B: (636) 789-2805 / email: info@hilltran.org

## Worship and Preaching Calendar

- December 17, 2023 - Elizabeth & Zechariah - Pastor Harold
- Christmas Eve - Children's Christmas Special
- Christmas Day - Special Video Message (No Live Service)
- New Year's Eve - Out With The Old & In With The New

**HUMC Facebook:** @HillsboroUMCMO

**TUMC Facebook:** @TransformationUMCMO

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/HillTranMinistries>

**Download our App:** "Our Church" Church.dev (Hill-Tran Ministries)

**Website:** [www.hilltran.org](http://www.hilltran.org)

**Questions:** ask@hilltran.org

**Prayer Request:** prayer@hilltran.org

# Welcome To Hillsboro UMC December 17, 2023

## Our Mission

Our mission is to develop Jesus-centered followers committed to sharing God's love in a Jesus-looking way to help change the world.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to create a spiritual community where individuals and families can come as they are, fall in love with Jesus, have a spiritual awakening, and rediscover life.

## Our Purpose

*"We are People Helping People Experience a Jesus-centered Life"*

## Welcome Home

Whatever your faith tradition, beliefs, culture, race, past, age, or differing abilities, we hope you find healing and acceptance in our Jesus-centered community. Whatever doubts, questions, or challenges you may have about God and spirituality, we hope you discover the truth about God, have a spiritual awakening, and experience a Jesus-centered life. We are excited you are here and truly wish to connect with you wherever you are in the stream of life.



## Order of Praise, Worship, and Teaching

**Opening Video:** “*Joy Advent*”

**Bringing in the Light Song:** *TBD*

**Welcome and Announcements:** Liturgist

**\*Call to Worship:** Liturgist (**Light Three Advent Candles**)

**\*Opening Prayer:** Liturgist

**\*Song:** “*TBD*”

**Sharing of Prayers and Joys:** Pastor Harold

**\*Sharing The Peace:** Pastor Harold

**\*Scripture Reading:** - *Luke 1:5–25, 57–80 (The MSG)* Liturgist

**Sermon Bumper Video:** *Advent Joy*

**Message:** “*Waiting On God’s Presence*” - Pastor Harold

**Song:** “*TBD*”

**Offering:** Online @ [www.hilltran.org/online-giving](http://www.hilltran.org/online-giving) (Liturgist)

**\*Sending Forth:** Pastor Harold

**\*Closing Song:** “*TBD*”

**\* = Please Rise in Posture**

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDY, COUPLES OR SMALL GROUPS.

1. This Advent season, where are you waiting on God?
2. Where in your life do you feel “barren,” failing to live up to your own (or someone else’s) expectations?
3. Can you recall a time of waiting in your life in which God answered—as he did for Zechariah and Elizabeth?
4. How long must one wait to hear from God before giving up?
5. What if you never hear from God on this side of heaven?

## Luke 1:5-20 (The Message)

### A Childless Couple Conceives

<sup>5-7</sup> During the rule of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest assigned service in the regiment of Abijah. His name was Zachariah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. Together they lived honorably before God, careful in keeping to the ways of the commandments and enjoying a clear conscience before God. But they were childless because Elizabeth could never conceive, and now they were quite old.

<sup>8-12</sup> It so happened that as Zachariah was carrying out his priestly duties before God, working the shift assigned to his regiment, it came his one turn in life to enter the sanctuary of God and burn incense. The congregation was gathered and praying outside the Temple at the hour of the incense offering. Unannounced, an angel of God appeared just to the right of the altar of incense. Zachariah was paralyzed in fear.

<sup>13-15</sup> But the angel reassured him, “Don’t fear, Zachariah. Your prayer has been heard. Elizabeth, your wife, will bear a son by you. You are to name him John. You’re going to leap like a gazelle for joy, and not only you—many will delight in his birth. He’ll achieve great stature with God.

<sup>15-17</sup> “He’ll drink neither wine nor beer. He’ll be filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment he leaves his mother’s womb. He will turn many sons and daughters of Israel back to their God. He will herald God’s arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics—he’ll get the people ready for God.”

<sup>18</sup> Zachariah said to the angel, “Do you expect me to believe this? I’m an old man and my wife is an old woman.”

<sup>19-20</sup> But the angel said, “I am Gabriel, the sentinel of God, sent especially to bring you this glad news. But because you won’t believe me, you’ll be unable to say a word until the day of your son’s birth. Every word I’ve spoken to you will come true on time—*God’s time.*”

## Hill-Tran Announcements

- **HUMC & TUMC:** The Hill-Tran Men's group will meet on January 2, 2023, at 6:30 PM at HUMC. The men meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 PM.
- **HUMC & TUMC:** The Hill-Tran Women's Group will meet on December 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM at HUMC.
- **HUMC Leadership Meeting:** Thursday, January 25, at 6:30 PM
- **TUMC Leadership Meeting:** Sunday, January 14, after service.
- **TUMC Launch Team Meeting:** Monday, January 8, 2023 on ZOOM at 6:00 PM.
- **Joint Service with Potluck afterward:** On December 31, 10:00 AM at HUMC.

### Christmas Eve Services:

**HUMC: 9:00 AM / TUMC: 6:00 PM**

- **HUMC:** We need a volunteer to step into the great rotation of leaders for Children's Ministry. Please contact Kristi Monroe for more information.
- **HUMC:** Christmas Basket Distribution is Saturday, December 23, 2023. 9:30—1:00 PM.
- **HUMC:** Children's Christmas Eve Production is in the works, please contact Kristi Monroe for more information and to get your children involved: Kristie Monroe / (636) 357-3299 / kristiandawson@yahoo.com. This ministry is a great way for your children to invite their friends to come and join the fun.
- **HUMC:** Please see Jeni Van Houten to adopt a family for the Christmas Basket Event at Cell: 314-607-3161 or Email at jenivanhouten@yahoo.com.

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## Hill-Tran Prayer Requests

### Praying For...

- Peace in the Middle East.
- Peace in Ukraine.
- UNLV families, students, faculty, and community.
- The unhoused as it gets cold.
- Victims of violence of all kinds.
- Peace around the globe and for our families.
- Victims of all accident, disease, and illness.
- Everyone struggling during this holiday season.
- The countless people inside and outside our faith community battling cancer.
- The shut-in who are unable to join us in person.
- Those experiencing the holidays for the first time without a special loved one present.

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### Hill-Tran Joys

- **HUMC:** 2024-2026 Leadership Team is fixed in place, Chris Thebeau is the new Leadership Team Chair.
- **HUMC:** For a great meeting with DS Bruce Baxter.
- **HUMC:** The Hawks for a great football season.
- **Advent is upon us:** (Joy to the World).
- **Mizzou:** is in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day.
- **HUMC & TUMC:** Apportionments 100% Paid-in-full.
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## **Luke 1:21-25 (The MSG)**

<sup>21-22</sup> Meanwhile, the congregation waiting for Zachariah was getting restless, wondering what was keeping him so long in the sanctuary. When he came out and couldn't speak, they knew he had seen a vision. He continued speechless and had to use sign language with the people.

<sup>23-25</sup> When the course of his priestly assignment was completed, he went back home. It wasn't long before his wife, Elizabeth, conceived. She went off by herself for five months, relishing her pregnancy. "So, this is how God acts to remedy my unfortunate condition!" she said.

## **Luke 1:57-66 (The MSG)**

### **The Birth of John**

<sup>57-58</sup> When Elizabeth was full-term in her pregnancy, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives, seeing that God had overwhelmed her with mercy, celebrated with her.

<sup>59-60</sup> On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and were calling him Zachariah after his father. But his mother intervened: "No. He is to be called John."

<sup>61-62</sup> "But," they said, "no one in your family is named that." They used sign language to ask Zachariah what he wanted him named.

<sup>63-64</sup> Asking for a tablet, Zachariah wrote, "His name is to be John." That took everyone by surprise. Surprise followed surprise—Zachariah's mouth was now open, his tongue loose, and he was talking, praising God!

<sup>65-66</sup> A deep, reverential fear settled over the neighborhood, and in all that Judean hill country people talked about nothing else. Everyone who heard about it took it to heart, wondering, "What will become of this child? Clearly, God has his hand in this."

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## Luke 1:67-80 (The MSG)

<sup>67-79</sup> Then Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he came and set his people free.  
He set the power of salvation in the center of our lives,  
and in the very house of David his servant,  
Just as he promised long ago  
through the preaching of his holy prophets:  
Deliverance from our enemies  
and every hateful hand;  
Mercy to our fathers,  
as he remembers to do what he said he'd do,  
What he swore to our father Abraham—  
a clean rescue from the enemy camp,  
So we can worship him without a care in the world,  
made holy before him as long as we live.

And you, my child, "Prophet of the Highest,"  
will go ahead of the Master to prepare his ways,  
Present the offer of salvation to his people,  
the forgiveness of their sins.  
Through the heartfelt mercies of our God,  
God's Sunrise will break in upon us,  
Shining on those in the darkness,  
those sitting in the shadow of death,  
Then showing us the way, one foot at a time,  
down the path of peace.

<sup>80</sup> The child grew up, healthy and spirited. He lived out in the desert until the day he made his prophetic debut in Israel.

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